

# The Morning Astorian

ESTABLISHED 1873

PUBLISHED BY

ASTORIAN PUBLISHING COMPANY.

J. H. CARTER, GENERAL MANAGER.

**RATES.**

By mail, per year ..... \$6 00  
 By mail, per month ..... 50  
 By carriers, per month ..... 60

**THE SEMI-WEEKLY ASTORIAN.**

By mail, per year, in advance ..... \$1 00



**THE TITLE "AMERICAN."**

Secretary Hay has taken very sensible action to officially directing that hereafter all new record-books and seals used by official representatives of the United States in foreign countries shall bear the words "American embassy," "American legation," "American consulate general" and so on. The use of the term "United States," in these connections, is to be discarded as far as practicable. The innovation will make for brevity and greater euphony and clearness.

Technically, of course, the people of South and of Central America and of British North America are as much Americans as the people of the United States. The term America applies to the entire western continent. Whether the people of the United States are entitled to appropriate the name Americans to the exclusion of the people of the rest of the continent is a matter to be determined by general usage—and general usage, particularly in the old world, has decreed that the title Americans applies only to the people of the "states."

When a resident of Germany, France or Great Britain has occasion to speak of the people of Mexico or of Canada nationally he generally calls them Mexicans or Canadians. To him, the people of Bolivia and of Bolivia and the people of Brazil are Brazilians. Indeed, the people of the western continent outside of the United States do not themselves use the title of "American," as a general thing, in speaking of themselves. Those to the south of the United States occasionally refer to themselves as Latin-Americans and those in South America sometimes speak of themselves as South Americans; but as a rule the people of these sections employ a noun for this purpose that is derived from the name of the country of which they are citizens.

Again, there is no longer, correctly speaking, one "United States of America"—the expression that is used in the preamble to the federal constitution. At the time that the constitution was adopted that title was literally true, but since then a number of federations of states has sprung into existence on the western continent—such, for instance, as the Mexican and Brazilian federations, both of them just as much "United States of America" as our own country.

Secretary Hay's new order will, the New York Commercial says, help to prevent confusion arising out of this condition of things.

**THE COMING OF AERONAUTIC RACE.**

Santos-Dumont, who has just revisited this country to participate in the coming contest between aeronauts at St. Louis, talks in a way that will inspire admiration for the man, if not confidence in his success, says the New York Tribune. He carefully refrains from brag, realizing, no doubt, that indulgence in boastfulness will be more appropriate after the race than before. He thus exhibits commendable modesty and good sense. These qualities alone will predispose many people in his favor.

The machine which the young Brazilian has brought with him, his No. 7, was built for racing three years ago, but its qualities have never been conspicuously displayed. With the 60 horse power motor that has been substituted for the one originally employed to drive its propellers, only three trials have been made. These were sufficient to enlighten, if not to satisfy, him as to its capacity, without telling the public much about the speed which the airship can develop. After all, little more will be required in the St. Louis contest than was needed to capture the Deutsch prize. On that occasion he was obliged to traverse a course that was not far from eight miles long in 30 minutes. It will now be necessary to cover 10 miles in the same time, or to move as fast as a 20-knot steamer for only half an hour. To be sure, no one can say what speed his rivals will be able to show, but there is no trustworthy record of a better performance than this for an aerial voyage each half of which was made in the opposite direction from the other.

The world has heard little about the other competitors for the \$100,000 prize. Perhaps the Lebaudy brothers, who have done some brilliant work in Paris, will take part in the coming race, but they

have been singularly quiet about their intentions. Dr. Greth of California, whose airship attracted attention last year, may also engage in it. At one time it was deemed probable that Sir Hiram Maxim would build a machine especially for St. Louis, but at present there are no indications that he has done so. His failure is the more to be regretted because in his experiments 10 or 12 years ago he relied exclusively on the aeroplane for support in the atmosphere. Langley, of course, is out of the question. Hence, unless the Wright brothers of Dayton, O., come to the front, the gas bag type of flying machine will be the only one represented in the international contest. In that case the outcome would simply be a personal victory, whereas, if radically different kinds of apparatus were tested, something of value might be learned about aerial navigation.

**INDIA'S MYSTERIOUS PLAGUE.**

The Indian plague seems to be a hard thing to stamp out. The British government has been battling with it for years, yet it still exists. Not only does it persist in slaying millions annually and in sticking to the land of the rajahs, but the Anglo-Indian doctors and plague experts who have been studying it for many years are still baffled of any appreciable control over it. It is a freak as to some of its manifestations, and the extraordinary thing about it is its uncertainty. Even yet, after all investigation, study and experiments, instead of yielding to the sanitary, preventive and corrective treatment which has been developed and applied to epidemic-ridden districts in which the conditions favored the doctors, it flourishes most virulently in those districts. On the other hand, in the large cities of India and in localities where necessarily it is harder to apply medical and sanitary regulations, often it is least known and least fatal, although regularly visiting those places. This appears to be proof that it is not yet understood in its relations.

The doctors are still in ignorance of why it rages in one district and skips another; why it will develop and subside in a given place much earlier one year than another, and why it is less virulent in places of crowded population, difficult to bring under sanitary laws, than in others where the population is easier to subject to medical government.

Two or three things of value are known about it. The plague serum used in its treatment is valuable. It lessens the possibility of catching the disease and the probability of death from it. The inoculation of a quarter of a million people with the serum showed that the percentage of attacks was 1.32 among the inoculated as compared to 3.06 among the uninoculated, and the death rate 32.60 against a death rate of 52.15.

Inoculation, however, does not solve the problem. It is not an absolute preventive of contagion or of death, and the natives of India lessen its effectiveness by resisting its application. They also hamper the English doctors in charge of the work of dealing with the plague by showing an unwillingness to submit to the regulations and treatment imposed. Now and then the doctors bungle their work in a way that increases the native distrust of them. Recently, in order to increase the supply of serum, it was prepared in a new way, and when the preparation was administered to a number of natives all were taken with lockjaw and died. The result of this was to arouse an almost universal resistance to inoculation with the serum all over India. The authorities have announced that their principal reliance for success with the plague is the evacuation of plague-infested localities till the disease dies out there. This is almost equivalent to an acknowledgment of failure in dealing with the disease, since plague germs will necessarily be carried away with them by the people in such hegiras.

The so-called N-rays, the new form of invisible light, discovered by Blondlot, in France, is found to be given off by bodies under strain, as in compression or bending. Hence a vibratory body, such as a tuning fork or a bell, which is undergoing rapid alternating strains, is a source of the rays, which also emanate from the vibrating air surrounding a sonorous body. The rays are detected by their property of increasing the brilliancy of a phosphorescent substance. When the revolving disk of a siren is made slightly phosphorescent, it is seen to shine out more strongly every time the instrument is sounded.

With receipts of \$20,000,000 a year and tonnage of more than \$17,000,000, the Suez canal is not an ideal waterway. In 1903, 3761 vessels passed from the Mediterranean to the Red sea. The Pharaohs and the Ptolemies never imagined the possibilities of modern artificial channels, and never dreamed of the enrichment of Egypt by the building of a mighty dam at Assouan, although they constructed huge reservoirs to impound the waters of the Nile, spreading them gradually over the land and thereby making their country a marvellous granary.

**Hawthorne's Six Masterpieces.**

In a fine appreciation of Nathaniel Hawthorne (whose centenary falls on July 4 next), in the July Success, Richard Le Gallienne has this to say about the American writer's work:

"Twice-Told Tales," "Mosses From an Old Manse" and "The Snow Image and Other Twice-Told Tales" might as well, so to speak, have been bound in the same volume. They are all made up of the same successes and the same failures. Almost always you will find that the successes grow in the shadow, and are concerned with the darker side of the spiritual drama, being fantasies and allegories of ambitious or troubled souls. Mingled with them are pleasant essays, and gracious moralities (perhaps a little childish)—such, say, as "A Rill From the Town Pump," "The Great Carbuncle" and "The Seven Vagabonds"; also, to my thinking, much overrated legends of American history, such as "Legends of the Province House." But these you read merely because the pen that wrote them was seldom capable of being continuously dull on any theme. Indeed, with the exception of three or four masterpieces, these three books must be regarded either as experiments or repetitions. These masterpieces, in my opinion, are:

1. "Dr. Heidegger's Experiment."
2. "Young Goodman Brown."
3. "Rappaccini's Daughter."
4. "Feathertop."
5. "Roger Malvin's Burial."
6. "The Artist of the Beautiful."

Perhaps, from old association, one may add "The Great Stone Face." As for "The Snow Image," I must confess that it seems but a childish performance today, when the art of writing fancies for children has reached so scientific a development. Possibly "The Wonder Book" still holds its place in the nursery, but here one would need the more competent opinion of a child.

But the six masterpieces! If Hawthorne had written nothing else but these, he would have triumphantly immortalized himself as an artist of the mysterious.

Compare him with Poe in this respect, and note how mechanically inventive are the best of Poe's stories compared with the essential mystery of Hawthorne's imaginations. With all their detective brilliancy, there is no story of Poe's to be compared with "Rappaccini's Daughter," or even "Young Goodman Brown"—an even more difficult if less original achievement.

**Kansas Crops Ruined.**

Topeka, Kan., June 24.—Heavy rain, wind and hail tonight seriously damaged the wheat crop in the central portion of the state. Harvest was about to begin.

## Sour Stomach

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